

**6TH INTER COLLEGE YOUTH FESTIVAL, 2005 OF THE RAJIV
GANDHI UNIVERSITY, ITANAGAR.**

**VALIDICTORY FUNCTION SPEECH OF THE CHANCELLOR
SHRI S.K. SINGH, GOVERNOR OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH
NOVEMBER 17, 2005**

Mr. Vice Chancellor, Mr. Pro-Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Members of the Faculty, Scholars of the University, Shri Likha Takar, General Secretary and Shri Guniya Nabam.

I am delighted to assist with this happy and auspicious function. I am also delighted that instead of pursuing the rites of exclusivity celebrating each festival and each holy day of each indigenous community and tribal group separately, the enlightened and sophisticated, cultivated minds of the scholars of this University have decided to celebrate their commitment to their own culture: solo and group dances; songs; literary activities; poetry writing; and above all, competitive sports, in a manner and style that declares to the entire State and our North-East region that the youth, their own children, young men and women are determined to dazzle their elders and less mature and younger peers, students of schools and secondary level by displaying and declaring their pursuit of unity of all groups and tribes along with an

overall pursuit of excellence and competitive existence in a corporate and composite style.

We should have here students & teachers from eleven affiliated Government Colleges, four affiliated private Colleges and indeed and of course, scholars of the Honours Courses, Masters Courses, Ph.D. and Research Scholars, in other words the entire Higher Education and Research community pursuing superior learning and research indeed the highest levels of research and cultivators of the minds in our entire State.

As one Arunachalee to another, may I confide in you all how happy this function has made me because our Arunachal Panorama today projects quietly & without fanfare, not separate indigenous festivals but displays a panorama of our total and holistic pursuit of excellence and determination that we are not prepared to play second fiddle to anyone in India or the world. We stand united as Arunachalees, as upholders of our own internal unity, determined to maintain our togetherness.

We live in the North-East of India which consists of eight States, each one, in lesser or larger numbers inhabited by indigenous communities, ancient tribal cultures, and those who have cherished the guardianship of the Eastern Himalayas and of virgin and pristine forests,

that are deemed amongst the largest repositories and cradles of biodiversity of a most unique kind.

It gives me no pleasure to recount that Assam has for the last four decades gone through the tragedy of facing a great deal of senseless violence through the misdemeanors and violence undertaken by organizations like ULFA and Bodo Organisations, Nagaland has faced major problems of law and order due to some kind of imaginary notion of a separate sovereignty, Mizoram which has emerged happily from what used to be a huge discontent, recently into constructive and progressive activity of State-building. Meghalaya which after having been an idyllic area of beauty and peace is tending occasionally to sink into not so-petty tribal violence. Tripura and Manipur which have had ethnic and ideological skirmishes. Some of these unhappily continue and persist. Sikkim is just beginning to settle down to drawing its breath.

Our State, Arunachal cannot but be counted as one amongst the eight sisters in this large bunch of feminine beauties. Our unique point has however, been that Arunachal has displayed a unique model in the North-East, unlike any other State. It has remained truly peaceful. It has refused to sink into any kind of violence. It has displayed that its soul is deeply democratic, and fundamentally non-violent. It has remained both a

model and a dream in so far as the other sisters are concerned. It has refused to sully its fingers with anyone's blood. And nothing has so far made us deviate from Gandhi's path of truth and non-violence. Not ideology; not comparative misery or want; not ethnicity; indeed nothing has forced or persuaded or seduced us to deviate from our settled path of unity. We have all along and constantly declared that we enjoy the friendly affection of the people of our State, our region and of the vast bigness of India all around ourselves. This is what has constantly made us committed to the concepts of building consensus after each step. We have shown our natural capacity for consensus which has indeed helped the State maintain, the same leader as our Chief Minister for just short of a quarter of a century.

Those who wish to find fault with India's growth and development, India's achievements in the field of high-tech including Information Technology have to seek some plausible pretext of attacking us. Too much high-tech of an urban type, too little poverty alleviation in Rural India. Too much corruption; slow growth of industrialization; mafias; dacoits in the country-side; reduction of tiger and leopard population from our reserve forests etc. When these do not seem to suffice, they say Aha we are building a one dynasty Republic in India. Let our State be the

witness for the manner in which one single family has during the last six or seven decades provided us, the State of Arunachal so much care, protection and affection as to earn the ever-lasting appreciation of all the indigenous and tribal peoples of all ilks and age-groups in our State. Jawaharlal Nehru, his daughter Indira Gandhi, her son Rajiv Gandhi, and now the other members of the same family have done so much for us, given us, our dancers and artists such encouragement and promotion our handicrafts such appreciation that we would be less than human if were not to appreciate or love them. Jawaharlal Nehru gave us all his love and compassion, his daughter Indira Gandhi, her son Rajiv Gandhi and other members of that family have written and spoken glowingly of our people, our geography, our mountains, our flora and fauna, all the bounty of nature with which we have been endowed. If despite this we have not succeeded in building better connectivity and more income from tourism the blame lies elsewhere- and let us confess, also partly at our own door.

I am proud of another thing. That is that out of our 11 Colleges affiliated to this University not one is an exclusively Women's' College. There are women scholars, teachers, researchers, members of the faculty and members of the student body, in each of our Colleges and indeed in the University itself. This shows how comfortable our women are with

their male colleagues and peers; and how easy-going men-women relations in an academic ambience are in our region and in this country side at large. The charm and the healing touch of our mothers and sisters has constantly been with us. We hope that the teaching in our University and its affiliated colleges; sports, classrooms will all produce mothers and sisters for the next generation, worthy of the natural, physical, and human beauty and charm radiated by our land.

I must share with you that from time to time we have had young hot heads here who felt attracted to the wrong and the evil model provided by the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) for the youth of this region in these last four decades and more. The AASU produced a philosophy of violence and of bandh culture, of agitational semantics and they tried to cover it all with the language of nationalism and freedom and pseudo-liberty. Many student bodies and unions in the North-East region were beguiled into emulating their example, most students unions which imbibed this philosophy started calling themselves National Liberation Fronts whether of Manipur Students' Union, or Tripura Students' Union; or of Naga Students' Union. In realistic terms their basic product was, what without varnish could be called, euphemistically occasional criminal gangs of extortionists and donation seekers, some

kind of cheats wishing to grab quick petty cash. The term rentiers should apply to them, for they have no ideology, no idealism, no competitive capability and no desire to excel at any worthwhile activity. I should be sad if ever I learn or notice that our own AAPSU has descended into this kind of conduct or activity.

I am delighted that, over the years, our native Arunachal AAPSU has, despite occasional temptations, refused to become a rentier organization.

It is not my purpose to mar the atmosphere of joy, excitement and achievement which you have created in this University at the end of your youth festival this 'KASUSILOTI'.

Thank you for asking me to be with all of you at the end of these activities- full of beauty, and vigour and vitality, achievement reflecting the spirit of the high Himalayas and the depth and fecundity of our wonderful forests.

Jai Hind